Contact: Sean Conway

(202) 494-0519

For Release: Saturday, April 22, 2000

ALLARD SAYS ACTIONS TO SEIZE ELIAN GONZALEZ "NOT JUSTIFIED"

Loveland, CO – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) issued the following statement concerning the Justice Department's seizure of Elian Gonzalez early Saturday morning in Miami, Florida.

"The type of force used this morning by the INS and Justice Department clearly was not justified," Allard said. "Negotiations between Elian's Miami family and the Justice Department were ongoing, and the appellate court proceedings were scheduled to resolve this issue peacefully."

Allard also stated that he was disappointed that the Clinton Administration choose Easter weekend to undertake such an operation.

"For the American people to have to see the terrible pictures of semi-automatic weapons being pointed in the face of a six year old boy on Easter weekend is terrible." added Allard.